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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**VINCENNES WOMEN CHARGED WITH STEALING
EMPLOYER'S FUNDS IN BANK FRAUD SCHEME**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that DEBORAH L. RICHARDS, 45, of Vincennes, Indiana, was charged today with bank fraud, following an investigation by the United States Secret Service and the Indiana State Police.

The Information alleges that between March 15 and September 15, 2004, RICHARDS was employed by the Southwest Indiana Network for Education, a non-profit organization. During this time period the Information alleges that RICHARDS engaged in a scheme to acquire approximately \$88,057 in funds from the Fifth Third Bank account of the Southwest Indiana Network for Education without the consent of the organization.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who is prosecuting the case for the government, RICHARDS faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 30 years

and a maximum possible fine of \$1,000,000. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Evansville.

The Information is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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